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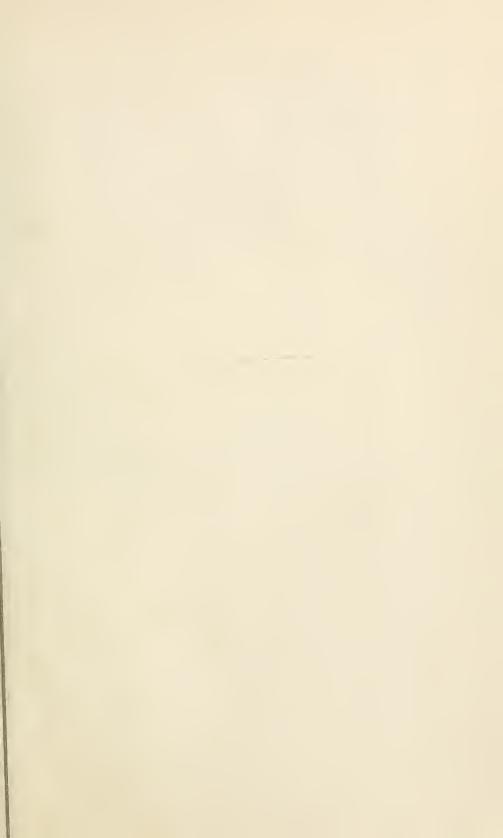




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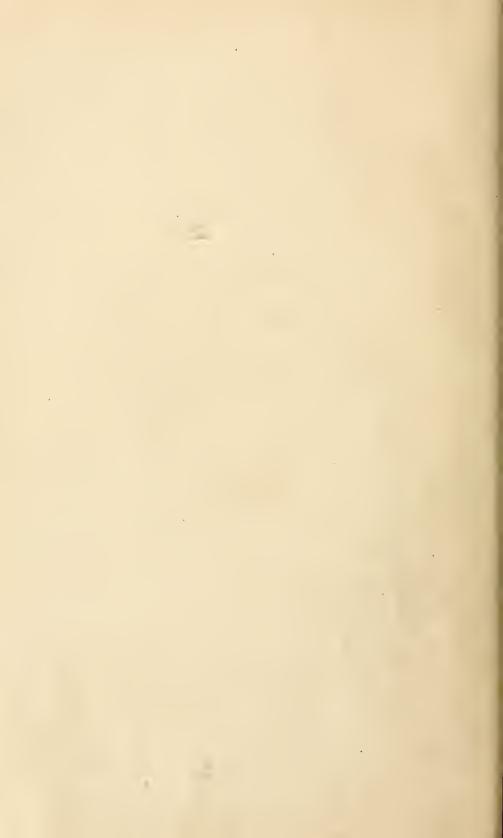












#### CANTATA FOR WOMEN'S VOICES

AWARDED PRIZE IN 1918 COMPETITION
OF MATINEE MUSICAL CLUB, PHILADELPHIA

# THE SINGING LEAVES

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL

MUSIC BY

FRANCES McCOLLIN



BOSTON
OLIVER DITSON COMPANY

New York Chas. H. Ditson & Co. Chicago Lyon & Healy

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SOLO VOICES: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Baritone

TIME OF PERFORMANCE: ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES

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#### THE SINGING LEAVES

1

"What fairings will ye that I bring?" Said the King to his daughters three: "For I to Vanity Fair am bound, Now say what shall they be?"

Then up and spake the eldest daughter, That lady tall and grand:

"Oh, bring me pearls and diamonds great, And gold rings for my hand."

Thereafter spake the second daughter,
That was both white and red:
"For me bring silks that will stand alone,
And a gold comb for my head."

Then came the turn of the last daughter. That was whiter than thistle-down. And among the gold of her blithesome hair Dim shone the golden crown.

"There came a bird this morning.

And sang 'neath my bower eaves,

Till I dreamed, as his music made me,

'Ask thou for the Singing Leaves.'"

Then the brow of the King swelled crimson With a flush of angry scorn:

"Well have ye spoken, my two eldest, And chosen as ye were born;

"But she, like a thing of peasant race.

That is happy binding the sheaves;"

Then he saw her dead mother in her face,
And said, "Thou shalt have thy leaves."

He mounted and rode three days and nights Till he came to Vanity Fair. And 't was easy to buy the gems and silk, But no Singing Leaves were there.

Then deep in the greenwood rode he, And asked of every tree, "Oh, if you have ever a Singing Leaf, I pray you give it me!"

But the trees all kept their counsel, And never a word said they, Only there sighed from the pine-tops A music of seas far away.

Only the pattering aspen Made a sound of growing rain, That fell ever faster and faster, Then faltered to silence again.

"Oh, where shall I find a little foot-page That would win both hose and shoon, And will bring to me the Singing Leaves If they grow under the moon?"

Then lightly turned him Walter the page, By the stirrup as he ran:

"Now pledge you me the truesome word Of a king and gentleman,

"That you will give me the first, first thing You meet at your castle-gate, And the Princess shall get the Singing Leaves, Or mine be a traitor's fate."

The King's head dropt upon his breast A moment, as it might be; 'T will be my dog, he thought, and said, "My faith I plight to thee."

Then Walter took from next his heart A packet small and thin,

"Now give you this to the Princess Anne, The Singing Leaves are therein." As the King rode in at his castle-gate,
A maiden to meet him ran,
And "Welcome, father!" she laughed and cried
Together, the Princess Anne.

"Lo, here are the Singing Leaves," quoth he,
"And woe, but they cost me dear!"

She took the packet, and the smile

Deepened down beneath the tear.

It deepened down till it reached her heart, And then gushed up again, And lighted her tears as the sudden sun Transfigures the summer rain.

And the first Leaf, when it was opened, Sang: "I am Walter the page, And the songs I sing 'neath thy window Are my only heritage."

And the second Leaf sang: "But in the land That is neither on earth or sea, My lute and I are lords of more Than thrice this kingdom's fee."

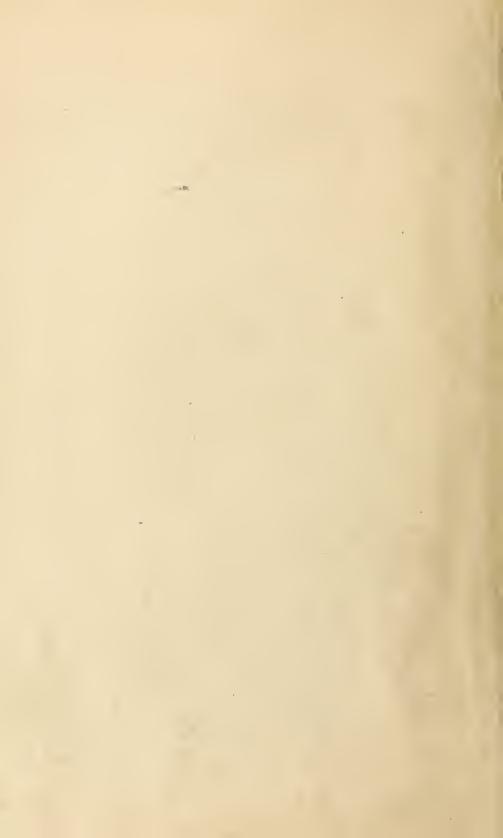
And the third Leaf sang, "Be mine!" Be mine!"
And ever it sang, "Be mine!"
Then sweeter it sang and ever sweeter,
And said, "I am thine, thine, thine!"

At the first Leaf she grew pale enough, At the second she turned aside, At the third, 'twas as if a lily flushed With a rose's red heart's tide.

"Good counsel gave the bird," said she,
"I have my hope thrice o'er,
For they sing to my very heart," she said,
"And it sings to them evermore."

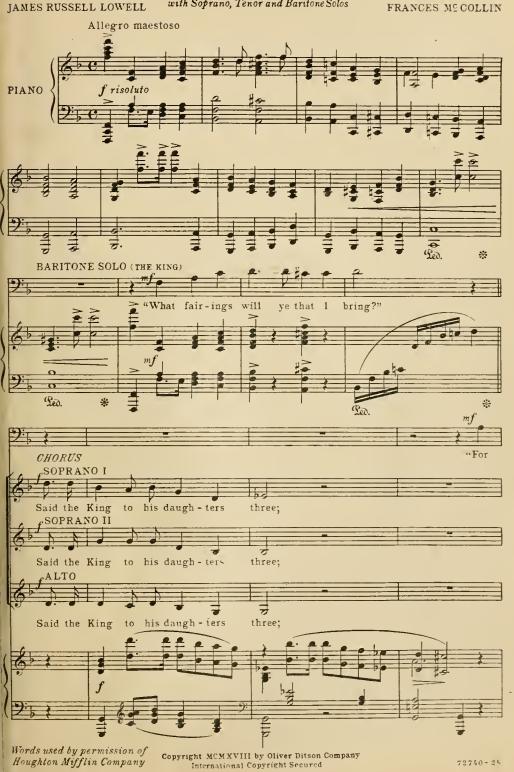
She brought to him her beauty and truth, But and broad earldoms three, And he made her queen of the broader lands He held of his lute in fee.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL



A Cantata for Women's Voices with Soprano, Tenor and Baritone Solos

FRANCES MC COLLIN





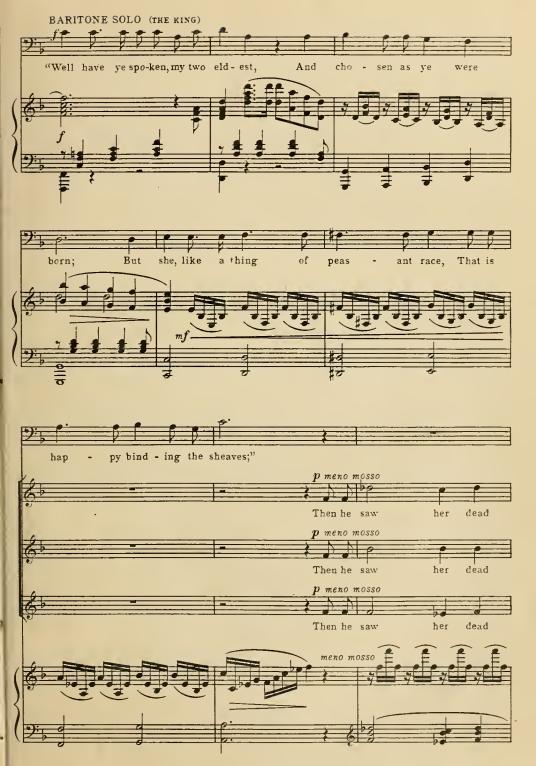


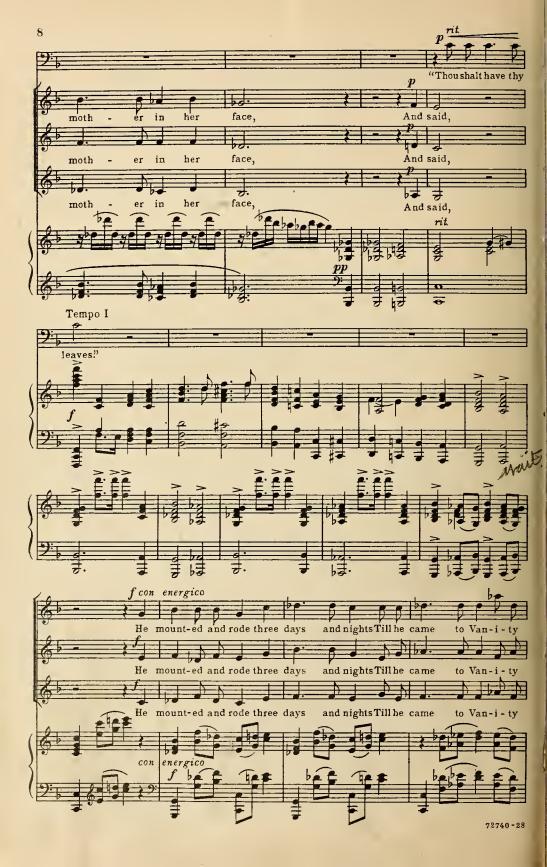




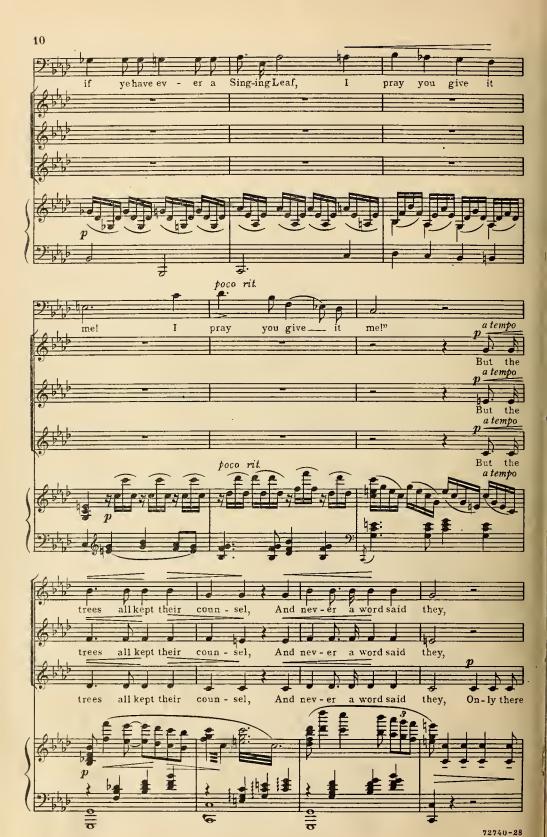


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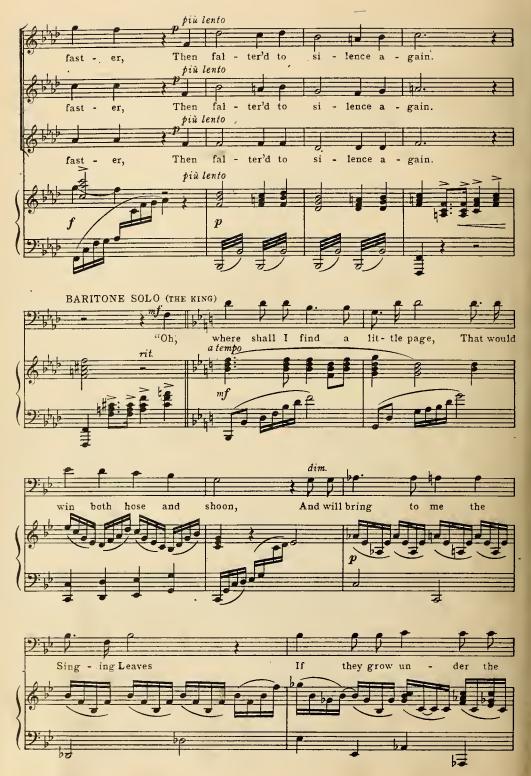




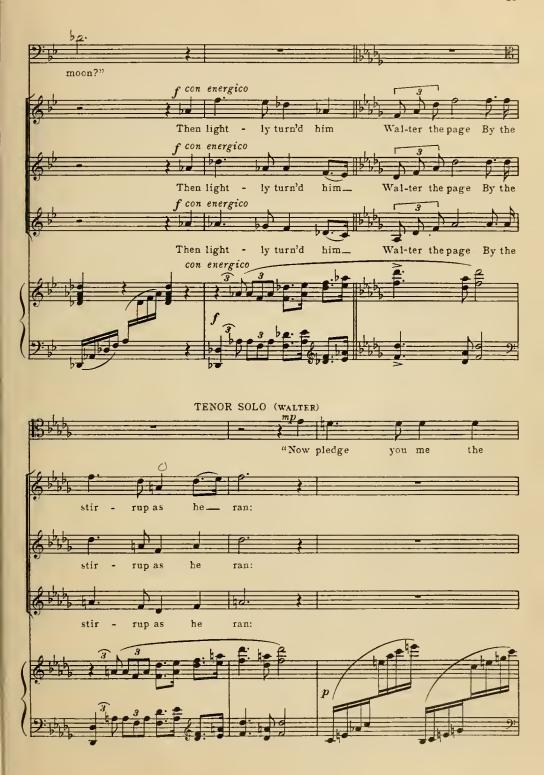


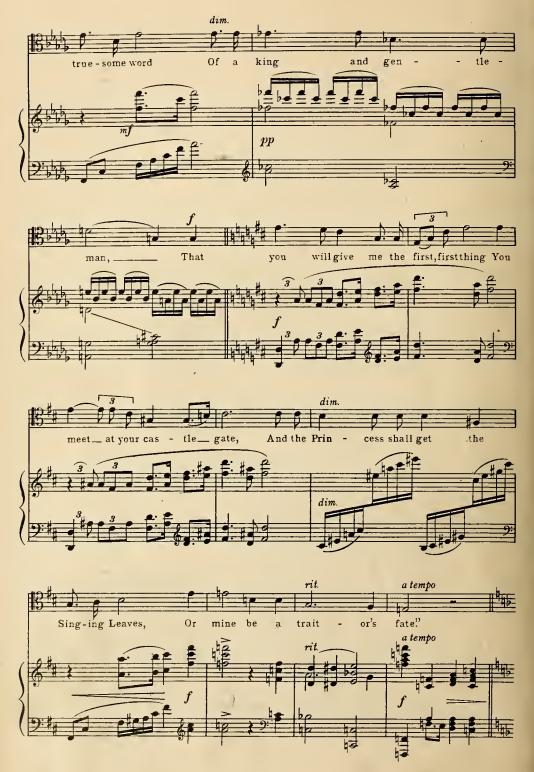






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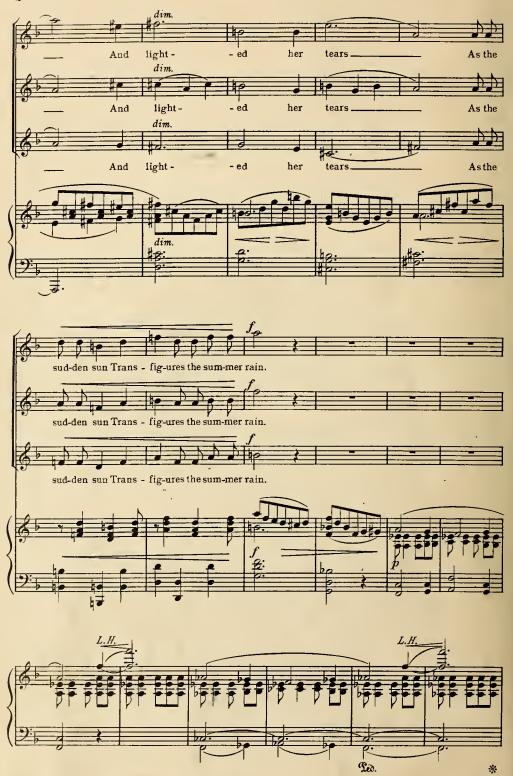




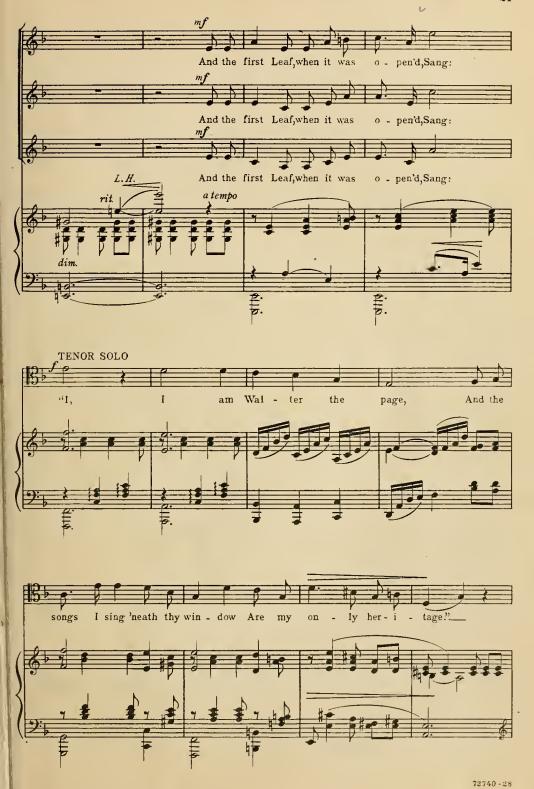


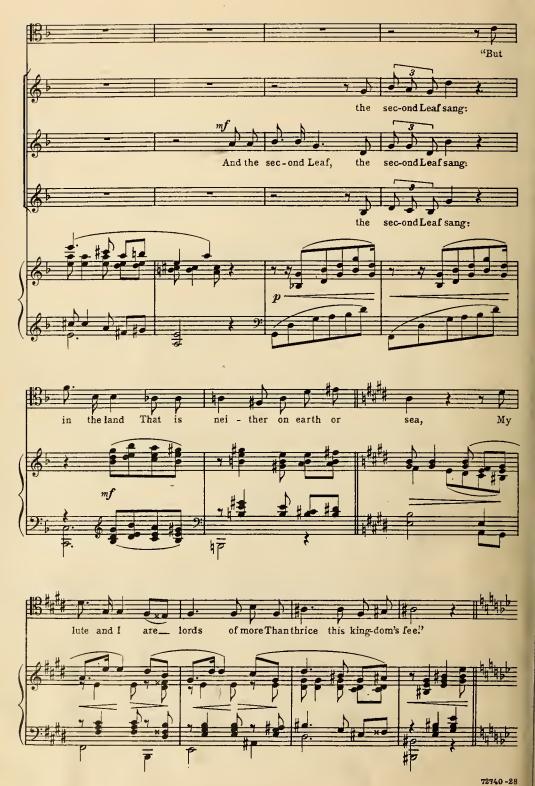






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